SUPERMAN
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NATIONAL COMICS
MYSTERY IN SPACE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
12¢
AUG.
NO. 77
THERE MUST BE SOMEONE FIRING THAT GIGANTIC GUN--AND I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS THE PLANET RANN!
A DOUBLE-LENGTH
ADAM STRANGE THRILLER...
"RAY-GUN IN THE SKY!"
Plus A NEW "STAR ROVERS" STORY!

SKINNY OR FAT, 15, 20, 30 OR 40 YEARS OF AGE

Just RUSH me your LAST CHANCE COUPON below with YOUR NAME and ADDRESS ON IT

and I'll show YOU absolutely FREE

How to GAIN UP TO 50 LBS. OF MIGHTY MUSCLES!

or LOSE up to 50 LBS. of UGLY, DANGEROUS FAT

And Become a REAL HE-MAN like MANY THOUSANDS of My Pupils in 10 Minutes of FUN a Day

Are YOU SKINNY like I was?

a sickly skeleton who developed a streamlined physique and great physical endurance.

American Body building Club president

BEN REBHUHN

at 50 years of age. A brilliant UNIVERSITY EDUCATOR.

authority on creating a HEALTHY MIND in a HEALTHY BODY.

says Dr. Winfield Scott Pugh, Commander U.S. Navy Medical Corps.

Yes! I'll Show You By My Quick, Easy Methods How To

ADD POWERFUL NEW INCHES OF MUSCLES around YOUR ARMS, CHEST, LEGS, etc.

How to IMPROVE YOUR HE-MAN LOOKS 100%.

How to BECOME A WINNING ATHLETE IN ALL POPULAR SPORTS.

How to BEAT ANY BULLY.

How to DO FEATS of STRENGTH.

How to be a WINNER in EVERYTHING YOU TACKLE.

YES! Your Success Story Can Soon be like John Sill and thousands of my pupils. Think of it — a skinny weakling like you became a MAGNIFICENT MR MUSCLES — won a BIG SILVER TROPHY, his name, accomplishments engraved on it and $100. A few weeks before, everybody picked on John, too weak to fight for his rights. TODAY everybody admires John's movie star build, he-man STRENGTH, his mighty ARMS, heroic CHEST, slender WAIST, rock-like TORSO, broad manly BACK, wide military SHOULDERS, new popularity with the BOYS and GIRLS. His winning drive in ALL SPORTS, his energy at work and studies.

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are, if you are in your teens, twenties or thirties, I'll show you in just 10 thrilling minutes a day in your home, you can make yourself over by the easy, quick method I turned myself from a wreck to a tower of strength and endurance.

YES! YOU'LL ADD INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLES to YOUR ARMS, YOU'LL DEEPEN YOUR CHEST, BROADEN YOUR BACK and SHOULDERS. From HEAD to HEELS you'll gain SIZE, POWER, LIGHTNING SPEED, ENDURANCE. You'll become the SUCCESSFUL HE-MAN IN LOOKS and ACTS — a WINNER in EVERYTHING, athletics, business, studies.

DEVELOP YOUR 520 MUSCLES BY THE GREATEST METHOD!

Friend, I traveled the world, studying every secret to PERFECTLY develop your body. My "5-Way Progressive Natural Power Method"

"I TESTED-PROVED by hundreds of thousands LIKE YOU! SAVE YEARS, hundreds of DOLLARS! Do as movie stars, champions — John Sill, Jim Norman, Tony Pascarella — did! Mail coupon NOW!

Pick the kind of BODY YOU WANT Check All Your Needs —

WIN A BIG Silver Trophy and $100 IN CASH

MAIL THE COUPON TO ME NOW and I'll Send You FREE these 5 AMAZING PICTURE-PACKED TEST COURSES

(before it is too late) as John Sill and the others did

PLUS BOOK OF PHOTOS OF FAMOUS STRONG MEN ONCE WEAK LIKE YOU

MILLIONS were sold at $1.00. Send for them ALL FREE. Mail Coupon BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

I GAINED **60 LBS.** OF SHAPELY MIGHTY MUSCLES

BEFORE

Mailing Coupon I was a 125 lb. 6 ft. skinny weakling

says JOHN SILL

I added 7 inches to MY CHEST, 3½ INCHES to EACH ARM. No, Pal! You don't have to be a chicken-chested skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.

This Can Be YOU in a Short Time!

AFTER

Mailing Coupon 185 lb. HEAD-TO-TOE HE-MAN POPULAR ATHLETE You can be, too!

This now MAGNIFICENT, MODERN HERCULES, 26 yr. old teacher, Wm. Butler,

says to YOU "No matter WHAT your age, I advise you to SEND for the ABC-WONDER PICTURE COURSES at once. Under the World's greatest home training BODY BUILDER I now have 18½" ARMS, a 52" CHEST. My STRENGTH has greatly improved. So have my sports. I have won titles like "Mr. Virginian," "Mr. State Y.M.C.A." etc.

How would YOU like to have 18½ inch ARMS, a 52 inch CHEST like this ABC pupil NOW HAS?

I BROKE A WORLD'S STRENGTH RECORD!

JIM NORMAN became Athlete of the Year. Lifted the front End of a 2700 lb. Car. Quit being a bag-of-bones weakling like I was. In 10 minutes of fun a day, A.B.C. CAN DO FOR YOU ALL HE DID FOR ME! I gained 25 TERRIFIC LBS. of HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES.

mailing coupon below— like you do NOW.

AMERICAN BODY BUILDING CLUB, Dept. NC-28 GREAT NECK, NEW YORK

Mail me FREE all 5 WORLD FAMOUS STRENGTH TEST COURSES, including PHOTO BOOK of FAMOUS STRONG MEN, once weaklings, now famous Strong Men, and How to Become one of Them.

☐ I enclose 10c for mailing and handling.

I am under no other obligation.

I'm checking everything I need to give me the kind of body I want.

☐ I want to gain _____ lbs. (fill in). ☐ Triple my strength.

☐ I want to streamline my body, get rid of flabby fat.

☐ I want to add inches of muscle to my ☐ ARMS ☐ CHEST ☐ SHOULDERS ☐ POWERFUL LEGS ☐ SLIM WAIST

☐ I want to become a winning athlete. ☐ I want new pep.

NAME _____ AGE _____

DO NOT MAIL COUPON IF UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE.

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

FREE Sports, Self-defense, Strong-man Stunts Courses. Apparatus. Let me know how to get these FREE!

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ADAM STRANGE

ONE THOUSAND YEARS AGO, A GREAT CIVILIZATION ON THE PLANET *RANN* HAD BUILT A MIGHTY WEAPON TO SAFEGUARD IT AGAINST ALIEN INVASION! NOW--TEN CENTURIES LATER--THE PRESENT-DAY PEOPLE OF *RANN* ARE MENACED BY ALIEN WARRIORS--ARMED WITH THE VERY WEAPON THAT WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THEM! AND WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH A PERILOUS PREDICAMENT? NONE OTHER THAN *RANN'S* HEROIC CHAMPION--*ADAM STRANGE!*

RAY-GUN IN THE SKY!

I WARN YOU, INVADERS--LEAVE *RANN* OR I SHALL FIRE THIS GIANT RAY-GUN AT YOU!
YOU'RE BLUFFING, *ADAM STRANGE!* THERE'S NO WAY YOU--OR ANYONE ELSE--CAN FIRE THAT GUN!

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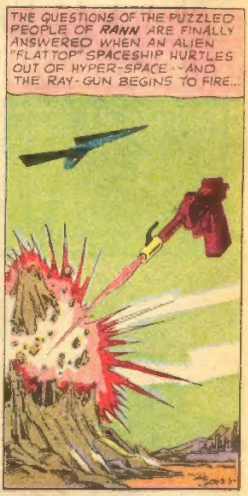
ABOVE THE PLANET RANN, WHICH IS THE THIRD PLANET OUTWARD FROM THE STAR-SUN ALPHA CENTAURI, A GIANT RAY-GUN MATERIALIZES...
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
WHO PUT IT THERE?
--AND WHY?

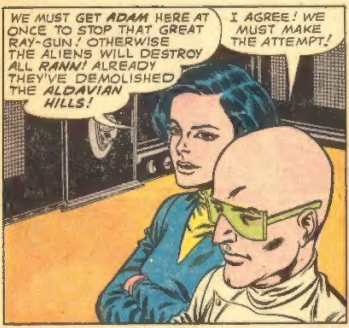
FOR SEVERAL DAYS THE GREAT WEAPON HANGS MOTIONLESS IN THE SKY--WHILE FLIERS CIRCLE IT, KEEPING CLOSE TAB ON IT...
WHAT KEEPS IT HANGING THERE?
HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO STAY?

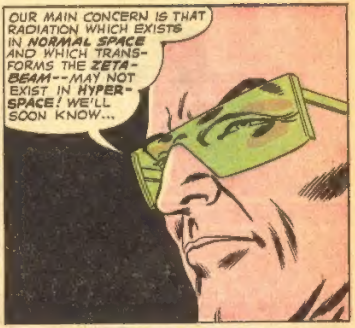

THE QUESTIONS OF THE PUZZLED PEOPLE OF RANN ARE FINALLY ANSWERED WHEN AN ALIEN "FLATTOP" SPACESHIP HURTLES OUT OF HYPER-SPACE--AND THE RAY-GUN BEGINS TO FIRE...

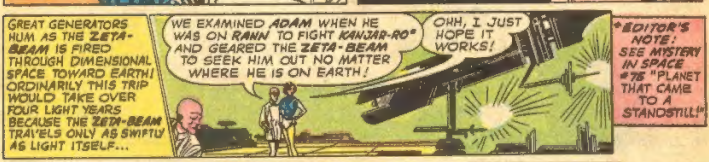
IN RETALIATION, ATOMIC WARHEADS ARE FIRED AT THE HUGE WEAPON AND THE DISTANT SPACESHIP...
WE'RE HITTING THEM--BUT NOT DAMAGING THEM IN THE SLIGHTEST!

WHILE IN A LABORATORY OF THE CITY OF RANAGAR, A WORRIED GIRL--ALANNA OF RANAGAR--BEGS FOR HASTE...
THIS IS THE ONE OF THE FEW TIMES RANN HAS BEEN MENACED--WHEN ADAM STRANGE ISN'T DUE HERE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS! FATHER, IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF BRINGING HIM HERE--AHEAD OF TIME?

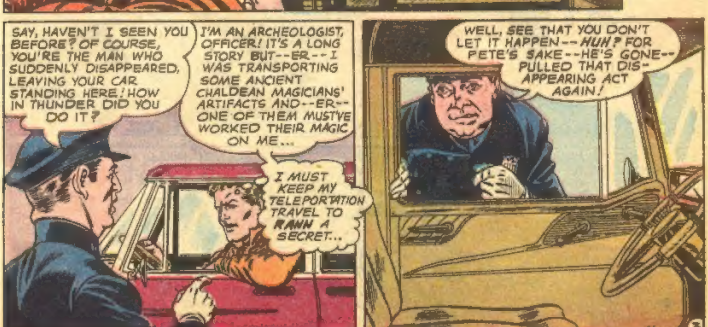
WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO IMPROVE THE ZETA-BEAM TRANSMITTING MACHINE, ALANNA, BY SENDING THE BEAM THROUGH HYPER-SPACE! IF WE CAN DO THAT, WE'LL BE ABLE TO BRING ADAM TO RANN WHENEVER WE WANT!
PLEASE TRY IT, FATHER--NOW!
2

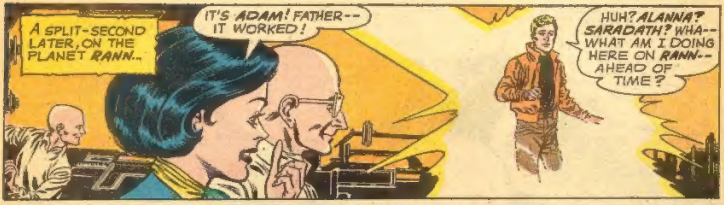

WE MUST GET ADAM HERE AT ONCE TO STOP THAT GREAT RAY-GUN! OTHERWISE THE ALIENS WILL DESTROY ALL RANN! ALREADY THEY'VE DEMOLISHED THE ALDAVIAN HILLS!
I AGREE! WE MUST MAKE THE ATTEMPT!

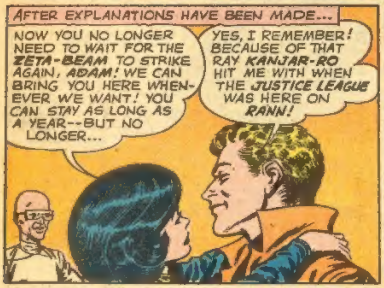

OUR MAIN CONCERN IS THAT RADIATION WHICH EXISTS IN NORMAL SPACE AND WHICH TRANSFORMS THE ZETA-BEAM--MAY NOT EXIST IN HYPER-SPACE! WE'LL SOON KNOW...


GREAT GENERATORS HUM AS THE ZETA-BEAM IS FIRED THROUGH DIMENSIONAL SPACE TOWARD EARTH! ORDINARILY THIS TRIP WOULD TAKE OVER FOUR LIGHT YEARS BECAUSE THE ZETA-BEAM TRAVELS ONLY AS SWIFTLY AS LIGHT ITSELF...
WE EXAMINED ADAM WHEN HE WAS ON RANN TO FIGHT KANJAR-RO* AND GEARED THE ZETA-BEAM TO SEEK HIM OUT NO MATTER WHERE HE IS ON EARTH!
OHH, I JUST HOPE IT WORKS!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE MYSTERY IN SPACE #75 "PLANET THAT CAME TO A STANDSTILL!"

AT THIS MOMENT ON A NEW YORK CITY STREET...
OH-OH! THERE'S THAT SAME OFFICER I SAW JUST BEFORE THE FUTURE PEOPLE OF RANN TELEPORTED ME TO HELP FIGHT THE MULTIPLE MENACE WEAPON!*
*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE MYSTERY IN SPACE #72.

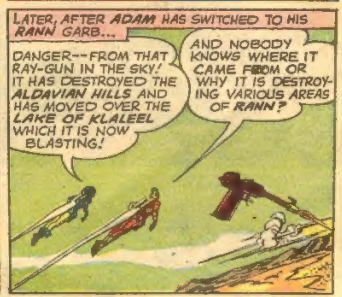

SAY, HAVEN'T I SEEN YOU BEFORE? OF COURSE, YOU'RE THE MAN WHO SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED, LEAVING YOUR CAR STANDING HERE! HOW IN THUNDER DID YOU DO IT?
I'M AN ARCHEOLOGIST, OFFICER! IT'S A LONG STORY BUT--ER--I WAS TRANSPORTING SOME ANCIENT CHALDEAN MAGICIANS' ARTIFACTS AND--ER--ONE OF THEM MUSTVE WORKED THEIR MAGIC ON ME...
I MUST KEEP MY TELEPORTATION TRAVEL TO RANN A SECRET...
WELL, SEE THAT YOU DON'T LET IT HAPPEN--HUH? FOR PETE'S SAKE--HE'S GONE--PULLED THAT DISAPPEARING ACT AGAIN!
3


A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, ON THE PLANET RANN..
IT'S ADAM! FATHER--IT WORKED!
HUH? ALANNA? SARADATH? WHA--WHAT AM I DOING HERE ON RANN--AHEAD OF TIME?


AFTER EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE...
NOW YOU NO LONGER NEED TO WAIT FOR THE ZETA-BEAM TO STRIKE AGAIN, ADAM! WE CAN BRING YOU HERE WHENEVER WE WANT! YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS A YEAR--BUT NO LONGER...
YES, I REMEMBER! BECAUSE OF THAT RAY KANJAR-RO HIT ME WITH WHEN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WAS HERE ON RANN!

ORDINARILY, THE ZETA-BEAM CAN STRIKE ONLY BELOW THE EQUATOR OF EARTH, BECAUSE RANN IS A PLANET OF ALPHA CENTAURI, WHICH IS IN THE SOUTHERN SKY AS SEEN FROM YOUR WORLD! BUT SINCE WE HAD DETERMINED YOUR PERSONAL AURA WE COULD DIRECT IT TO SEEK YOU OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE ON EARTH!

NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, DARLING, YOU'D BETTER GET INTO YOUR UNIFORM! YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO!
UH-HUH! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! WHAT'S THE DANGER THIS TIME?


LATER, AFTER ADAM HAS SWITCHED TO HIS RANN GARB...
DANGER--FROM THAT RAY-GUN IN THE SKY! IT HAS DESTROYED THE ALDAVIAN HILLS AND HAS MOVED OVER THE LAKE OF KLALEEL WHICH IT IS NOW BLASTING!
AND NOBODY KNOWS WHERE IT CAME FROM OR WHY IT IS DESTROYING VARIOUS AREAS OF RANN?

WE CAN ONLY GUESS THAT THE ALIEN SPACESHIP IS FIRING THE RAY-GUN BY REMOTE CONTROL--BLASTING US FOR SOME REASON IT HASN'T REVEALED YET!
WELL, LET'S GO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THE WEAPON!
4

ADAM STRANGE SWOOPS DOWN ON THE MIGHTY WEAPON WHICH BY NOW HAS SHIFTED TOWARD THE CITY OF ZARED...
THERE MUST BE SOMEONE FIRING THAT GIGANTIC GUN--AND I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS THE PLANET RANN!
YOU PEOPLE OF RANN HAVE TRIED THE NORMAL, CONVENTIONAL METHODS OF STOPPING THAT GUN--NOW SUPPOSE WE USE SOME UNUSUAL ONES!
SUCH AS--WHAT?
WITHIN MOMENTS, AT ADAM STRANGE'S COMMAND, GIANT VATS OF SEARING ACID ARE CARRIED ABOVE THE HUGE WEAPON AND POURED OVER IT...
WHEN THAT FAILS, MIGHTY NETS ARE THROWN OVER THE GUN AND A TITANIC TUG OF WAR TAKES PLACE...
IT'S AS IF SOME IMMOVABLE FORCE WERE HOLDING THE WEAPON IN PLACE!

SUDDENLY THE EARTHMAN CRIES OUT AS A THOUGHT STRIKES HIM...

WAIT A MINUTE! THERE'S SOMETHING MIGHTY ODD ABOUT THAT RAY-GUN!

IT LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY RAY-GUN TO ME...GIGANTIC YES, BUT--

AN ORDINARY RAY-GUN IS USED BY SOMEONE WHO HOLDS AND AIMS IT! THERE'S NO ONE HOLDING AND AIMING THAT HUGE THING--SO WHY DOES IT HAVE A *SIGHT*?

I'VE A HUNCH THE DELICATE MECHANISMS NEEDED TO HOLD THE WEAPON IN PLACE HERE AND TO FIRE IT MUST BE ENCASED WITHIN THE SIGHT!

BUT IF WE FAILED TO DAMAGE THE METAL OF THE GUN--HOW IN THE WORLD CAN YOU DESTROY THE MECHANISMS WHICH ARE INSIDE THE SIGHT?

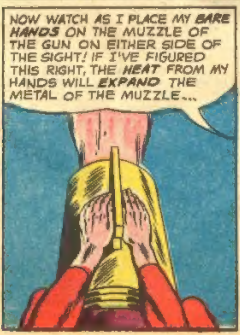
AS I FIGURED, RAY-BLASTING THE SIGHT DOES NO GOOD--THE GUN'S STRANGE METAL RESISTS EVERYTHING HURLED AT IT!

SINCE THE SIGHT ISN'T A PART OF THE GUN PROPER, WHOEVER ATTACHED THE MECHANISM--SIGHT TO THE GUN MUST'VE HAD AN INGENIOUS METHOD OF GETTING IT ON AND OFF FOR REPAIRS OR CORRECTIONS! MY PROBLEM NOW IS--TO FIGURE OUT HOW HE DID IT!

CAN ADAM STRANGE DISCOVER A WAY TO REMOVE THE SIGHT AND DESTROY THE MECHANISM INSIDE IT WHICH KEEPS THE DEADLY RAY-GUN IN THE SKY OF RANN? IF YOU WERE ADAM--HOW WOULD YOU REMOVE IT?

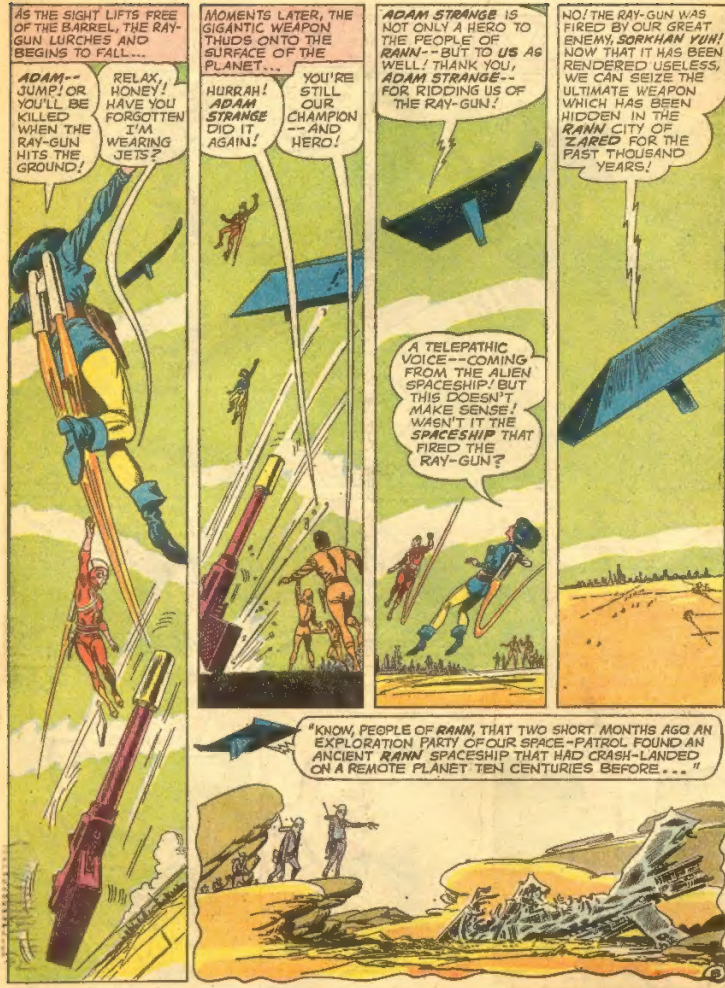
RAY-GUN IN THE SKY
Chapter 2
FIRST I'LL TRY BRUTE FORCE TO TRY AND KNOCK THE SIGHT OUT OF THE SLOT INTO WHICH IT FITS SO TIGHTLY!
IT DOESN'T WORK, ADAM! YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE!

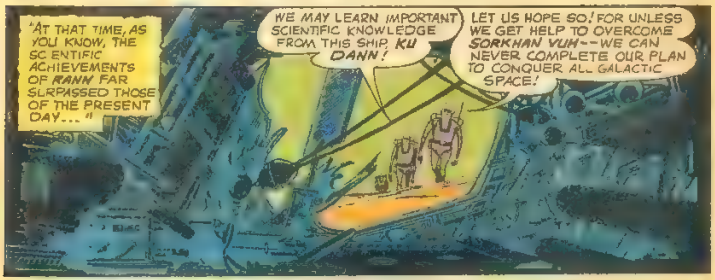
SINCE THE SIGHT ISN'T RIVETED ON--MAYBE I CAN REMOVE IT BY HAND!
HE CAN'T BE SERIOUS--YET WHY IS HE TAKING OFF HIS GLOVES?!

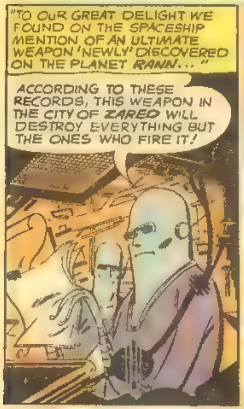

NOW WATCH AS I PLACE MY BARE HANDS ON THE MUZZLE OF THE GUN ON EITHER SIDE OF THE SIGHT! IF I'VE FIGURED THIS RIGHT, THE HEAT FROM MY HANDS WILL EXPAND THE METAL OF THE MUZZLE...

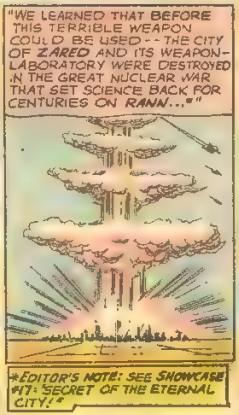
AT THE SAME TIME I'LL BLOW COLD AIR ON THE SIGHT ITSELF--TO MAKE ITS METAL CONTRACT!

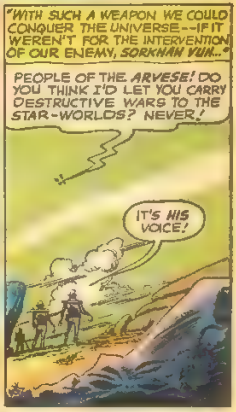
THEN I REACH OUT SWIFTLY WHILE THE BARREL IS EXPANDED AND THE SIGHT CONTRACTED--AND YANK THE SIGHT FROM THE SLOT INTO WHICH IT FITS!

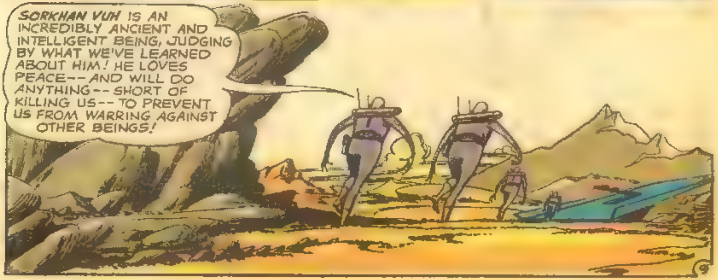

AS THE SIGHT LIFTS FREE OF THE BARREL, THE RAY-GUN LURCHES AND BEGINS TO FALL...
ADAM--JUMP! OR YOU'LL BE KILLED WHEN THE RAY-GUN HITS THE GROUND!
RELAX, HONEY! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN I'M WEARING JETS?
MOMENTS LATER, THE GIGANTIC WEAPON THUDS ONTO THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET...
HURRAH! ADAM STRANGE DID IT AGAIN!
YOU'RE STILL OUR CHAMPION--AND HERO!
ADAM STRANGE IS NOT ONLY A HERO TO THE PEOPLE OF RANN--BUT TO US AS WELL! THANK YOU, ADAM STRANGE--FOR RIDDING US OF THE RAY-GUN!
A TELEPATHIC VOICE--COMING FROM THE ALIEN SPACESHIP! BUT THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! WASN'T IT THE SPACESHIP THAT FIRED THE RAY-GUN?
NO! THE RAY-GUN WAS FIRED BY OUR GREAT ENEMY, SORKHAN YUH! NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN RENDERED USELESS, WE CAN SEIZE THE ULTIMATE WEAPON WHICH HAS BEEN HIDDEN IN THE RANN CITY OF ZARED FOR THE PAST THOUSAND YEARS!
"KNOW, PEOPLE OF RANN, THAT TWO SHORT MONTHS AGO AN EXPLORATION PARTY OF OUR SPACE-PATROL FOUND AN ANCIENT RANN SPACESHIP THAT HAD CRASH-LANDED ON A REMOTE PLANET TEN CENTURIES BEFORE..."


"AT THAT TIME, AS YOU KNOW, THE SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF RANN FAR SURPASSED THOSE OF THE PRESENT DAY..."
WE MAY LEARN IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE FROM THIS SHIP, KU DANN!
LET US HOPE SO! FOR UNLESS WE GET HELP TO OVERCOME SORKHAN VUH--WE CAN NEVER COMPLETE OUR PLAN TO CONQUER ALL GALACTIC SPACE!


"TO OUR GREAT DELIGHT WE FOUND ON THE SPACESHIP MENTION OF AN ULTIMATE WEAPON 'NEWLY' DISCOVERED ON THE PLANET RANN..."
ACCORDING TO THESE RECORDS, THIS WEAPON IN THE CITY OF ZARED WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING BUT THE ONES WHO FIRE IT!


"WE LEARNED THAT BEFORE THIS TERRIBLE WEAPON COULD BE USED--THE CITY OF ZARED AND ITS WEAPON-LABORATORY WERE DESTROYED IN THE GREAT NUCLEAR WAR THAT SET SCIENCE BACK FOR CENTURIES ON RANN..."*
EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE SHOWCASE #17: SECRET OF THE ETERNAL CITY!


"WITH SUCH A WEAPON WE COULD CONQUER THE UNIVERSE--IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE INTERVENTION OF OUR ENEMY, SORKHAN VUH..."
PEOPLE OF THE ARVESE! DO YOU THINK I'D LET YOU CARRY DESTRUCTIVE WARS TO THE STAR-WORLDS? NEVER!
IT'S HIS VOICE!


SORKHAN VUH IS AN INCREDIBLY ANCIENT AND INTELLIGENT BEING. JUDGING BY WHAT WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT HIM! HE LOVES PEACE--AND WILL DO ANYTHING--SHORT OF KILLING US--TO PREVENT US FROM WARRING AGAINST OTHER BEINGS!

"WHEN WE SOUGHT TO TAKE OVER THE GALACTIC RIM PLANETS, IT WAS SORKHAN VUH WHO PUT A BLANKET OF RADIATION AROUND THEM THROUGH WHICH WE COULD NOT PASS..."

NEITHER YOUR SPACESHIPS NOR YOUR WEAPONS SHALL PASS THIS BARRIER! GO HOME, PEOPLE OF ARVESE--AND LIVE IN PEACE!

"ALWAYS HE LEARNS OUR PLANS FOR SPACE-CONQUEST--ALWAYS HE STOPS THEM. WE'VE TRIED TO TRICK HIM BUT HIS WISDOM IS SUCH THAT HE INVARIABLY MANAGES TO STOP US..."

SORKHAN VUH TURNED THE GROUND TO A PECULIAR MUD THAT LETS US WALK ON IT--BUT INTO WHICH OUR TANKS AND ATOMI-GUNS SINK OUT OF SIGHT!

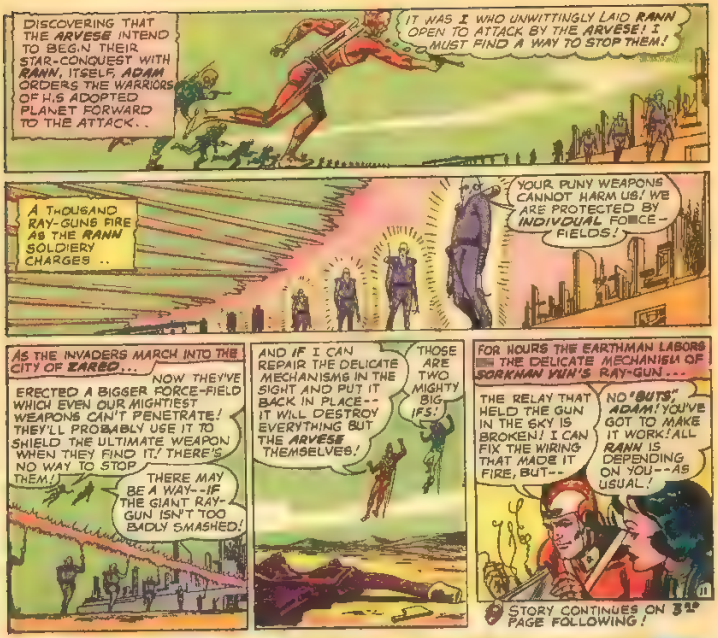
NOW, HOWEVER, YOU DESTROYED THE RAY-GUN WITH WHICH HE INTENDED TO DESTROY ZARED--AND THE ULTIMATE WEAPON HIDDEN IN THE ANCIENT RUINS BELOW THE PRESENT CITY! AGAIN, ADAM STRANGE--OUR THANKS!

"SO ANXIOUS TO AVOID TAKING LIFE IS SORKHAN VUH THAT HE FIRST ANNIHILATED RANN'S ALDAVIAN HILLS AND THE LAKE OF KLALEEL--TO GIVE THE PEOPLE OF ZARED TIME TO FLEE THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR CITY..."

THE GUN HAS MOVED OVER OUR CITY! FLEE--BEFORE IT BLASTS AT ZARED!

"HIS RAY-GUN WILL NOT KILL LIVING THINGS--ONLY INANIMATE MATTER IS DESTROYED. BUT THE ZARED INHABITANTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN HARMED BY FALLING BUILDINGS AND DEBRIS..."

EVEN THOUGH HIS RAY-GUN WOULD NOT KILL US, WE DARED NOT TRY TO ENTER ZARED BECAUSE THE GUN WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY OBLITERATED OUR SPACESHIP AND OUR WEAPONS!


DISCOVERING THAT THE ARVESE INTEND TO BEGIN THEIR STAR-CONQUEST WITH RANN, ITSELF, ADAM ORDERS THE WARRIORS OF HIS ADOPTED PLANET FORWARD TO THE ATTACK..
IT WAS I WHO UNWITTINGLY LAID RANN OPEN TO ATTACK BY THE ARVESE! I MUST FIND A WAY TO STOP THEM!
A THOUSAND RAY-GUNS FIRE AS THE RANN SOLDIERY CHARGES ..
YOUR PUNY WEAPONS CANNOT HARM US! WE ARE PROTECTED BY INDIVIDUAL FORCE-FIELDS!
AS THE INVADERS MARCH INTO THE CITY OF ZAREO...
NOW THEY'VE ERECTED A BIGGER FORCE-FIELD WHICH EVEN OUR MIGHTIEST WEAPONS CAN'T PENETRATE! THEY'LL PROBABLY USE IT TO SHIELD THE ULTIMATE WEAPON WHEN THEY FIND IT! THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THEM!
THERE MAY BE A WAY--IF THE GIANT RAY-GUN ISN'T TOO BADLY SMASHED!
AND IF I CAN REPAIR THE DELICATE MECHANISMS IN THE SIGHT AND PUT IT BACK IN PLACE-- IT WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING BUT THE ARVESE THEMSELVES!
THOSE ARE TWO MIGHTY BIG IFS!
FOR HOURS THE EARTHMAN LABORS AT THE DELICATE MECHANISM OF SORKHAN YUN'S RAY-GUN...
THE RELAY THAT HELD THE GUN IN THE SKY IS BROKEN! I CAN FIX THE WIRING THAT MADE IT FIRE, BUT--
NO "BUTS", ADAM! YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE IT WORK! ALL RANN IS DEPENDING ON YOU--AS USUAL!
STORY CONTINUES ON 32ND PAGE FOLLOWING!

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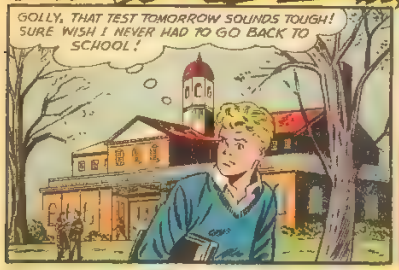
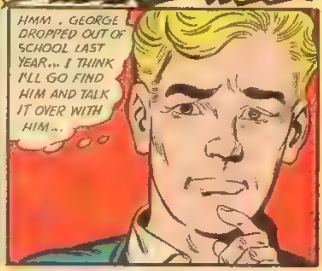
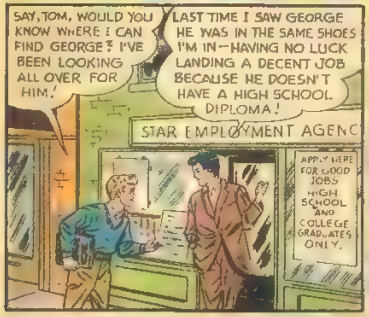
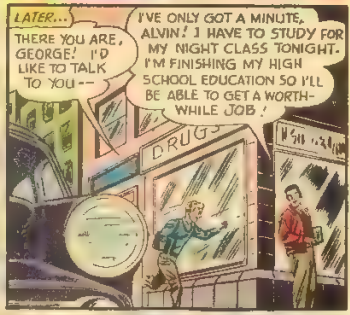
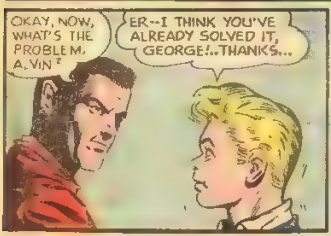
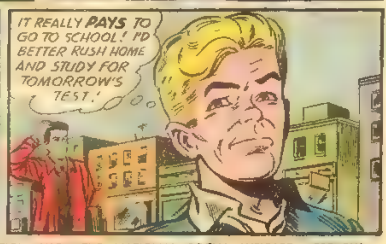





SAY, TOM, WOULD YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND GEORGE? I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR HIM!
LAST TIME I SAW GEORGE HE WAS IN THE SAME SHOES I'M IN—HAVING NO LUCK LANDING A DECENT JOB BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA!
STAR EMPLOYMENT AGENC
APPLY HERE FOR GOOD JOBS HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES ONLY.


LATER...
THERE YOU ARE, GEORGE! I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU--
I'VE ONLY GOT A MINUTE, ALVIN! I HAVE TO STUDY FOR MY NIGHT CLASS TONIGHT. I'M FINISHING MY HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION SO I'LL BE ABLE TO GET A WORTH-WHILE JOB!
DRUGS





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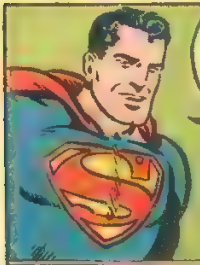

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RAY-GUN IN THE SKY Chapter 3

SOON, THE GREAT RAY-GUN IS RAISED BY WILLING HANDS AS ADAM STRANGE TUGS ON THE TRIGGER...

IT DOESN'T WORK! ADAM--WHAT'S WRONG?

TO TELL THE TRUTH, I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO WORK!

WHILE ADAM HAS BEEN REPAIRING THE SIGHT, THE ARVESE ALIENS HAVE PENETRATED DEEP INTO THE OLD RUINS BELOW THE MODERN DAY CITY OF ZARED...

WE CAN'T BE FAR FROM THE ANCIENT LABORATORY NOW!

A FINAL WALL CRUMBLES TO POWDER, AND THEN...

THERE IT IS! THE ULTIMATE WEAPON WHICH WILL MAKE US MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE! NOT EVEN SORKHAN VUH CAN STOP US NOW! IF HE TRIES--WE'LL ANNIHILATE RANN!

CARRYING THEIR NEW-FOUND WEAPON ON A GRAVITY BEAM, THE ARVESE LEAVE THE RUINS AND EMERGE INTO THE SUNLIGHT...

WE'LL TEST IT HERE ON RANN BY USING IT TO CONQUER THE PLANET! THEN WE'LL SEEK OUT AND DESTROY SORKHAN VUH!

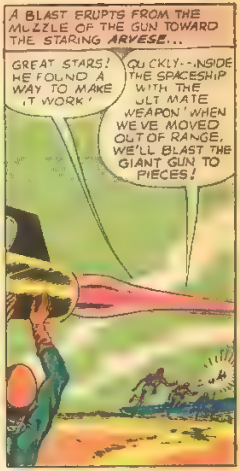
IT IS AT THIS MOMENT THAT ADAM STRANGE STEPS FORWARD...

WAIT, PEOPLE OF THE ARVESE! I MUST WARN YOU--USE YOUR WEAPON AGAINST RANN, AND I SHALL DESTROY YOUR SPACESHIP, LEAVING YOU STRANDED HERE!

YOUR BLUFF WON'T WORK, ADAM STRANGE! IF YOU COULD FIRE SORKHAN VUH'S RAY-GUN, YOU WOULD HAVE DONE SO BY NOW!

THEY CALLED YOUR BLUFF, ADAM! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
SHOW THEM THAT I CAN FIRE THE GUN! ALL RIGHT, MEN--LIFT IT UP AGAIN

ONCE MORE WILLING HANDS ARE PLACED ON THE HUGE WEAPON! THEY HEAVE--AND RAISE IT SHOULDER HIGH AS ADAM GRIPS THE GIANT TRIGGER
B-BUT IT DOESN'T WORK! I SAW YOU FAIL TO FIRE IT BEFORE
THAT WAS--BEFORE! WATCH NOW!

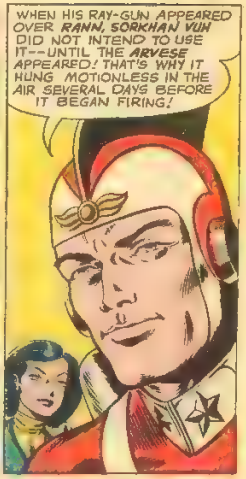

A BLAST ERUPTS FROM THE MUZZLE OF THE GUN TOWARD THE STARING ARYESE...
GREAT STARS! HE FOUND A WAY TO MAKE IT WORK!
QUICKLY--INSIDE THE SPACESHIP WITH THE ULTIMATE WEAPON! WHEN WE'VE MOVED OUT OF RANGE, WE'LL BLAST THE GIANT GUN TO PIECES!

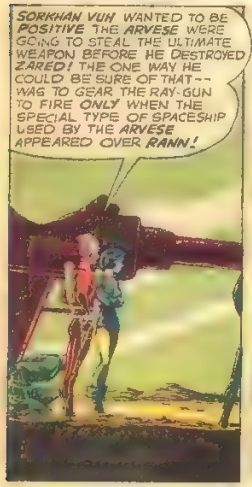
IN SUDDEN DREAD OF THE GREAT WEAPON WHICH ALONE CAN BLAST THROUGH THEIR FORCE-FIELDS AND DESTROY THEIR WEAPONS AND SPACESHIP THE ALIENS FLEE
BY THE TIME THOSE RANN WARRIORS CAN TURN SORKHAN VUN'S RAY-GUN IN THIS DIRECTION WE'LL BE OFF THE GROUND.

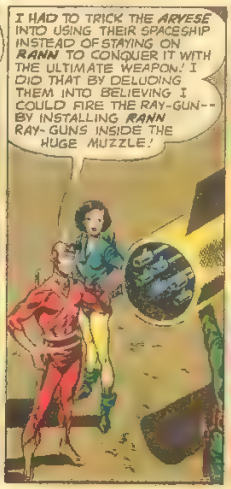
ADAM! YOU MISSED THEM BEFORE BUT YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY MISS SUCH A BIG TARGET AS THEIR SPACESHIP! HURRY! FIRE AT THEM--FOR THEY'LL LEAVE THE PLANET AND DESTROY US ALL WITH THE ULTIMATE WEAPON
I CAN'T ALANNA! NOT--YET
WHAT DOES ADAM STRANGE MEAN? WHY MUST HE WAIT? CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT PLAN HE HAS IN MIND?

THE ARVESE SPACESHIP QUIVERS TO THE HUM OF ITS ATOMI-PROTONIC MOTOR ...
ENGINES FUNCTIONING PERFECTLY, SIR.
THEN TAKE IT UP--BEFORE ADAM STRANGE CAN FIRE!

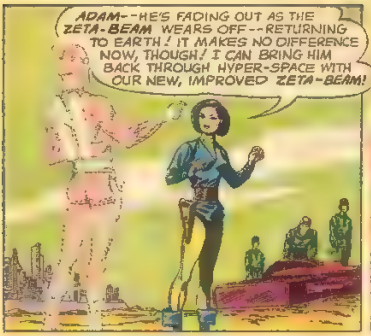
IN THE NEXT INSTANT A BLAST OF RAVENING ENERGY SPURTS OUTWARD FROM SORKHAN VUH'S RAY-GUN...
I HAD TO TRICK THE ARVESE INTO STARTING THEIR SPECIAL TYPE MOTOR--IN ORDER TO MAKE SORKHAN VUH'S WEAPON WORK!

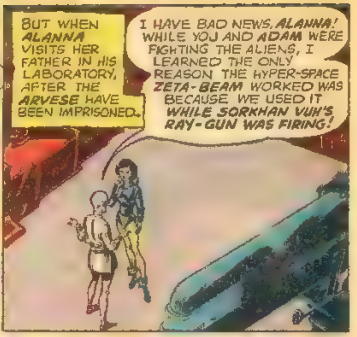

WHEN HIS RAY-GUN APPEARED OVER RANN, SORKHAN VUH DID NOT INTEND TO USE IT--UNTIL THE ARVESE APPEARED! THAT'S WHY IT HUNG MOTIONLESS IN THE AIR SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE IT BEGAN FIRING!

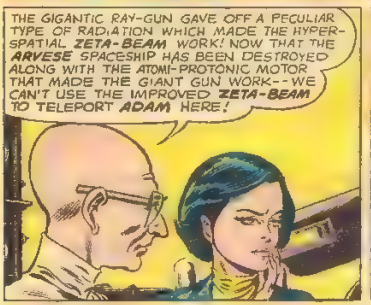

SORKHAN VUH WANTED TO BE POSITIVE THE ARVESE WERE GOING TO STEAL THE ULTIMATE WEAPON BEFORE HE DESTROYED ZARED! THE ONE WAY HE COULD BE SURE OF THAT--WAS TO GEAR THE RAY-GUN TO FIRE ONLY WHEN THE SPECIAL TYPE OF SPACESHIP USED BY THE ARVESE APPEARED OVER RANN!

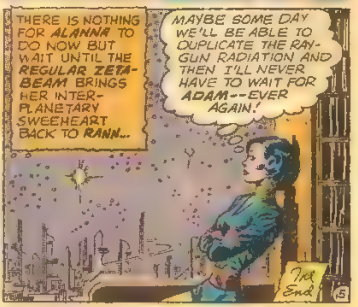

I HAD TO TRICK THE ARVESE INTO USING THEIR SPACESHIP INSTEAD OF STAYING ON RANN TO CONQUER IT WITH THE ULTIMATE WEAPON! I DID THAT BY DELUDING THEM INTO BELIEVING I COULD FIRE THE RAY-GUN--BY INSTALLING RANN RAY-GUNS INSIDE THE HUGE MUZZLE!

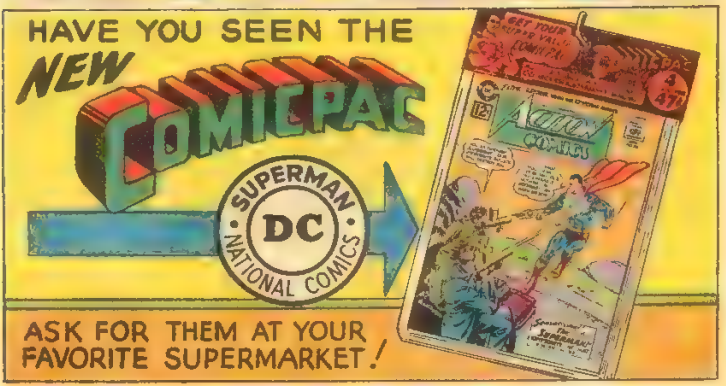
NATURALLY OUR RAY-GUNS COULDN'T HURT THEM--BUT I COVERED THAT MATTER UP BY PRETENDING TO MISS!
OH, YOU DARLING! WITH THEIR SPACESHIP AND THE ULTIMATE WEAPON AND ALL THEIR OTHER WEAPONS DESTROYED, THE ARVESE WILL BE FORCED TO SURRENDER TO US!
14


ADAM--HE'S FADING OUT AS THE ZETA-BEAM WEARS OFF--RETURNING TO EARTH! IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE NOW, THOUGH! I CAN BRING HIM BACK THROUGH HYPER-SPACE WITH OUR NEW, IMPROVED ZETA-BEAM!


BUT WHEN ALANNA VISITS HER FATHER IN HIS LABORATORY, AFTER THE ARVESE HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED--
I HAVE BAD NEWS, ALANNA! WHILE YOJ AND ADAM WERE FIGHTING THE ALIENS, I LEARNED THE ONLY REASON THE HYPER-SPACE ZETA-BEAM WORKED WAS BECAUSE WE USED IT WHILE SORKHAN VUH'S RAY-GUN WAS FIRING!


THE GIGANTIC RAY-GUN GAVE OFF A PECULIAR TYPE OF RADIATION WHICH MADE THE HYPER-SPATIAL ZETA-BEAM WORK! NOW THAT THE ARVESE SPACESHIP HAS BEEN DESTROYED ALONG WITH THE ATOMI-PROTONIC MOTOR THAT MADE THE GIANT GUN WORK--WE CAN'T USE THE IMPROVED ZETA-BEAM TO TELEPORT ADAM HERE!


THERE IS NOTHING FOR ALANNA TO DO NOW BUT WAIT UNTIL THE REGULAR ZETA-BEAM BRINGS HER INTER-PLANETARY SWEETHEART BACK TO RANN...
MAYBE SOME DAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE THE RAY-GUN RADIATION AND THEN I'LL NEVER HAVE TO WAIT FOR ADAM--EVER AGAIN!
THE END
5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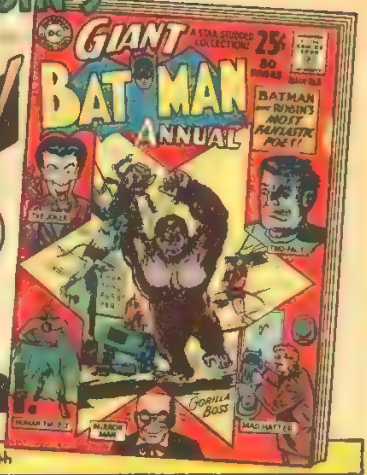

ON SALE EVERYWHERE...JUNE 19th

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GIANT LOIS LANE ANNUAL

ON SALE EVERYWHERE ... JUNE 7th

WONDERS of SPACE

Dear Editor: "The Spaceman who Fought Himself" is undoubtedly the best of the double-length *Adam Strange* stories. The ending was especially astonishing in that *Adam* now is apparently on *Rann* for good. Leaving him like this would not follow the regular story pattern, however.

So, we readers will at last get our wish in the follow-up May issue of *Mystery in Space* to see *Adam* with the famous *Justice League!* It is a stroke of genius to have this encounter in *Mystery in Space* rather than in *Justice League of America*. It will give the magazines a unity which could not be effectively obtained any other way.

Now to comment on Paul Gambaccini's letter in your excellent readers' column: I would like to point out that some of the most interesting and challenging menaces are the so-called "monsters" from outer space. Certainly no Earthmen type villains could come to *Rann* via the *zeta-beam*. Likewise there is a definite limit to the number of humanoid forms in the galaxy living so close to *Rann* as to be able to journey there and attempt to conquer the planet. And there is a limit to the number of criminals *Rann* itself could produce, although a story of this type would be very good, I imagine.

I, too, would like to see our hero in action on Earth—preferably in response to a plea from the *Justice League*. Regular readers will recall, though, that *Adam* battled a menace on Earth in the September, 1961 *Mystery in Space*.

Finally—to have *Adam* go to *Rann* and not see *Alanna* at all during the whole adventure? It would be unthinkable! *Adam* goes to *Rann* specifically to see his sweetheart; the fact that he happens to have a menace to battle everytime he goes is incidental, although it does make for a better story!

Roger Mann,
Minneapolis, Minn.

(Reader reaction to the joint Adam Strange-Justice League *appearance will have to wait for the next* Via Rocket Mail. *Whatever chance this fine letter had for winning our highly prized artwork was ruined by the failure of Roger Mann to include his complete address. Come on, Roger Mann, don't be bashful—are you a* Mann *or* mouse?—Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: I have never written to a letter-column before, but your March issue of *Mystery in Space* has me so worked up that I just have to write or explode!

Tomorrow is my semester exams. After sessions of study I usually read something of a lighter nature to relax. So I went out and bought a good selection of DC Comics.

All went well until I finished your latest excellent *Adam Strange* adventure. Then I read the last two panels and your note to the readers!

Isn't it exciting that *Adam* might be able to remain on *Rann* with *Alanna*, without promising to bring the *Justice League* into his next story? Heavens! You have me so keyed up I probably won't be able to sleep tonight. And I dread to think of the results of tomorrow's exams!

I'll never be able to stand the suspense of waiting until your May issue comes out! You are a "cruel" bunch of people to tantalize your readers with all these wonderful bits and then announce that we must wait till the next issue!

Kathie Powers,
1109 Yale Ave.
Billings, Montana

(The suspense is unbearable for us too, Kathie! Tell us—did the JLA *guest-star story live up to your expectations? And did you pass those exams?* —Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: I must congratulate you on one of the finest issues you have yet put out—the March, 1962 *Mystery in Space*.

The battle scenes between *Adam* and *Hortan Var* and the scenes depicting *Adam* trapped on the dead planet of *Maragal* are the best in the book. The thing I liked best about the story, however, was the idea of *Alanna* despairing, thinking that even *Adam* couldn't possibly save herself or her people.

Now here's a peculiar thing. For the first time, I've liked the second story better than the *Adam Strange* story! The *Star Rovers* are excellent. This story was unique; it didn't fall into the pattern of the first two in the series. Sid Greene's artwork was at its peak in this issue. The ending was also refreshingly novel. Keep this series up!

John Santino, Jr.,
52 Woodard Rd.,
W. Roxbury 32, Mass.

(We've anticipated the demand for more Star Rovers *stories by presenting one in this issue. The trio will be back again in a forthcoming issue—with another "questionable" title.*—Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: You seem to have forgotten some facts about air resistance and inertia in *Mystery in Space* number 73, where it was stated that *Adam Strange* had to go a certain distance in just ten minutes. I know that he must have been going faster than 421 miles per hour. This speed, record speed, is the fastest the human body can stand without shielding. Even at this speed, Col. John P. Stapp, the record-holder, had his eyes closed so much that he couldn't see enough to drive the powerful rocket-sled. It had to be set on tracks. Now if Col. Stepp could just barely stand this much air resistance, *Adam Strange* wouldn't be able to stand the air resistance he was taking. He wouldn't even be able to see where he was going.

Then for the inertia problem. At the speed *Adam* was going he wouldn't be able to stop so suddenly with so much ease. Since there isn't as much friction in the air as on the ground, it would take even longer for *Adam* to stop..

Doug Storer,
2019 Utah Ave.,
Butte, Montana

(For proposing such an interesting problem, we're awarding you the original Mystery in Space *cover for "The Spaceman who Fought Himself!" To the reader who comes up with the best answer, goes another art reward!*—Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: Paul Seydor—who not only has a letter in the latest *Flash* but also in *Mystery in Space*—must have a very discerning eye. As much as I've read comics, and as much as I've studied artwork, I cannot figure out how Paul knew that, although Carmine Infantino pencilled the cover of the November *Mystery in Space* and pencilled the Adam Strange story, he also knew that *Murphy Anderson* inked the cover and Joe Giella inked the inside pages.

David M. Smith,
5462 Marathon St.,
Los Angeles 38, Cal.

(Okay, Paul Seydor—how about letting David—and the rest of us—in on the secret of your discerning eye?—Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: All my friends and I really enjoy your terrific magazine, featuring one of our favorite comics characters, *Adam Strange*. One thing that bothers me is his method of jet-flying. Doesn't the exhaust from the rocket that he wears on his back ever burn his legs or feet?

Bob Patterson,
201 S. Woodlawn,
Bloomington, Ind.

(When we're hit with a technical question like this, we like to pass it over to an expert! On the receiving end of our pass is artist Murphy Anderson:

"To my knowledge, flying (or rocket or jet) belts were first described in a science-fiction story by the late Phil Nowlan. This story, 'Armaggedon—2419 A.D.' appeared in the August, 1928 Amazing Stories *and featured a 20th century hero called Anthony Rogers who awakens from a state of suspended animation in the 25th century.*

"Frank R. Paul, the dean of science-fiction artists, drew the accompanying story illustrations—some of which depicted flying belts in use.

"When Nowlan later adapted his story to comic-strip form, calling it Buck Rogers, *the flying belt was usually an intricate part of each adventure and was drawn in essentially the same form as Paul's version. This early concept is astonishingly similar to the experimental rocket belt currently being used by the U.S. armed forces—and appropriately nicknamed the* Buck Rogers belt!

"Later drawings of flying belts have varied somewhat in efforts at originality, which I believe in part explains the design of flying belts devised by Carmine Infantino for Adam Strange—*but his design also has the virtue of being light, simple and compact.*

"Now to answer reader Patterson's very reasonable query: the scientists of the advanced civilization of the planet Rann *have developed a cooling device which eliminates the heat of the flaming gases as they rush from the jets of* Adam's *flying belt.*

"This is not a trick answer because obviously the problem of flaming jets will have to be overcome before flying belts can, as I firmly believe they will be, be practically used by the general public"—Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: In *Adam Strange* you have created "an Earthly" character. A character whose only power is resourcefulness and love. This makes him more human than any other characters in any of your other magazines.

It is easy to conceive that a planet in the far reaches of space can be menaced by other intellectual creatures. Matter of fact, it is easier to conceive because *Rann* is not as close to us as Earth is.

Do not destroy this character by placing him in an environment with obviously *fictitious characters*.

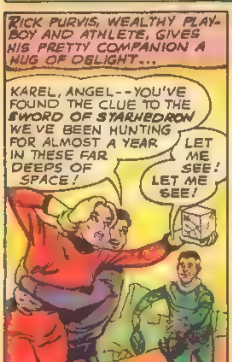
He is true-blue; he does not have to be placed with the super-heroes of the *Justice League of America*.

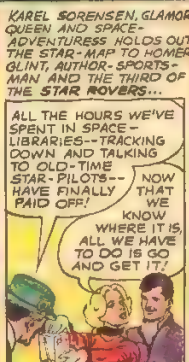
David Trotter,
4825 Ave. V, C.P.,
Birmingham 8, Ala.

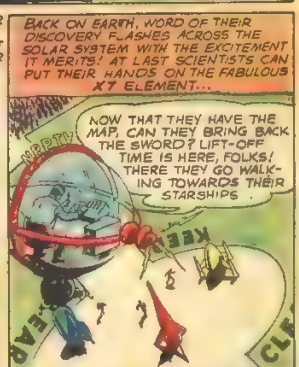
Letters to this department should be addressed to MYSTERY IN SPACE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

Where was I born--
A Star Rovers Story...
HOMER GLINT
KAREL SORENSEN
RICK PURVIS
VENUS?
MARS?
JUPITER?
I TELL YOU OUR HOME PLANET IS VENUS!
CUT THE CLOWNING, FELLOWS! WE ALL COME FROM MARS!
YOU BOTH HAVE SPACE-FEVER! WE THREE STAR ROVERS ARE NATIVES OF JUPITER!
WHICH OF OUR OLD FRIENDS RICK PURVIS, KAREL SORENSEN OR HOMER GLINT--IS RIGHT? WE KNOW OF COURSE THAT THE STAR ROVERS COME FROM MOTHER EARTH! WHY THEN DOES EACH INSIST THAT THE PLANET OF HIS BIRTH IS SOME OTHER PLANET OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM? AND WHAT PART DOES THE FABLED SWORD OF STARHEDRON PLAY IN THEIR STRANGE PREDICAMENT?

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, SPACE-HISTORIANS WERE CONVINCED THAT THE FABLED SWORD OF STARHEDRON--MADE OF THE RARE ELEMENT X7--WAS ONLY A MYTH! THEN IN THE RUINS OF A CITY ON AN ANTAREAN PLANET...
RICK! HOMER! COME SEE WHAT I'VE FOUND!

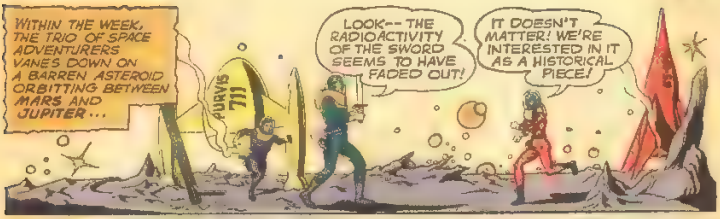

RICK PURVIS, WEALTHY PLAY-BOY AND ATHLETE, GIVES HIS PRETTY COMPANION A HUG OF DELIGHT...
KAREL, ANGEL--YOU'VE FOUND THE CLUE TO THE SWORD OF STARHEDRON WE'VE BEEN HUNTING FOR ALMOST A YEAR IN THESE FAR DEEPS OF SPACE!
LET ME SEE!
LET ME SEE!


KAREL SORENSEN, GLAMOR QUEEN AND SPACE-ADVENTURESS HOLDS OUT THE STAR-MAP TO HOMER GLINT, AUTHOR-SPORTS-MAN AND THE THIRD OF THE STAR ROVERS...
ALL THE HOURS WE'VE SPENT IN SPACE-LIBRARIES--TRACKING DOWN AND TALKING TO OLD-TIME STAR-PILOTS--HAVE FINALLY PAID OFF!
NOW THAT WE KNOW WHERE IT IS, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GO AND GET IT!


BACK ON EARTH, WORD OF THEIR DISCOVERY FLASHES ACROSS THE SOLAR SYSTEM WITH THE EXCITEMENT IT MERITS! AT LAST SCIENTISTS CAN PUT THEIR HANDS ON THE FABULOUS X7 ELEMENT...
NOW THAT THEY HAVE THE MAP, CAN THEY BRING BACK THE SWORD? LIFT-OFF TIME IS HERE, FOLKS! THERE THEY GO WALK-ING TOWARDS THEIR STARSHIPS.

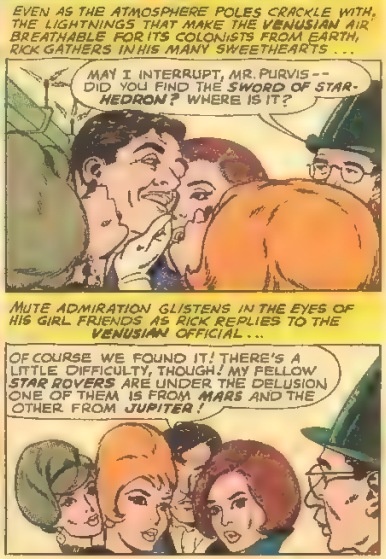
ONE WEEK LATER, ON THE LONG-FORGOTTEN PLANET ADAMALLA OF THE STAR-SUN AGENA, HOMER GLINT SHOUTS OUT IN TRIUMPH.
KAREL! RICK! HERE IT IS AT LAST--THE SWORD OF STARHEDRON! BUT SUIT UP IN YOUR ANTI-RADIATION UNITS! THIS THING IS GLOWING LIKE MAD!

PROTECTED BY THEIR RADIATION DEVICES, THE STAR ROVERS GATHER ABOUT THE FABLED WEAPON OF THE ANCIENT STAR WARRIOR, TAKKAN DOR...
SPACEMEN HAVE HUNTED FOR THIS SWORD FOR CENTURIES... AND WE FOUND IT!
QUITE A FEATHER IN OUR SPACE-CAPS! NOW WE CAN TAKE IT HOME AND PRESENT IT TO THE SOLAR WORLDS.
HOME, SWEET HOME! WAIT'LL THEY SEE US WHEN WE GET BACK TO VENUS!
WE'LL SOON BE HOMEWARD BOUND FOR MARS!
I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME TO JUPITER!
HUH? DID YOU SAY VENUS IS HOME, RICK?
OF COURSE I DID! YOU MUST'VE BEEN KIDDING ABOUT MARS, KAREL!
CUT THE CLOWNING, BOTH OF YOU! WE THREE STAR ROVERS COME FROM JUPITER!
I SAY WE COME FROM VENUS!
WE WERE BORN ON MARS AND YOU KNOW IT.
YOU'RE BOTH SPACE-LOCO! WE'RE JOVIANS!
WELL, FRIENDLY ARGUMENTS ARE NOTHING NEW AMONG THE STAR ROVERS, SO HALF AN HOUR LATER...
ALL RIGHT, LET'S CALL A TRUCE! TELL YOU WHAT--ON THE WAY BACK TO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, WE'LL CARRY THE SWORD BETWEEN OUR SHIPS WITH GRAVITY-BEAMS AND LEAVE IT ON A BIG ASTEROID..
UNTIL WE SETTLE THE PROBLEM OF WHERE WE WERE BORN!
AGREED!
AND SO--WITH THE SWORD HELD IN SUSPENSION BETWEEN THEIR SHIPS, THE STAR ROVERS HEAD HOMEWARD THROUGH ULTRA-SPACE--
WE'LL LOCK UP THE SWORD ON THE ASTEROID--
--AND SPLIT UP TO EACH OF THE THREE PLANETS--
--AND WHOEVER CAN PROVE WHERE OUR HOME IS, GETS THE SWORD FOR HIS PLANET!
101

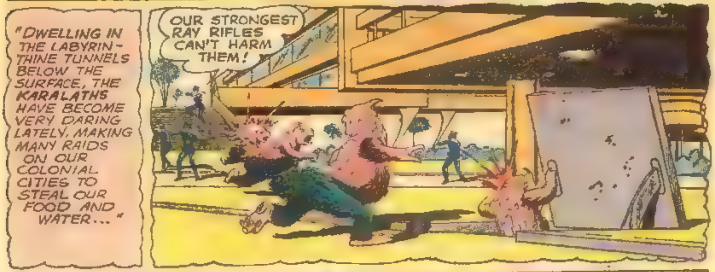

WITHIN THE WEEK, THE TRIO OF SPACE ADVENTURERS VANE'S DOWN ON A BARREN ASTEROID ORBITTING BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER...
PURVIS 711
LOOK-- THE RADIOACTIVITY OF THE SWORD SEEMS TO HAVE FADED OUT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! WE'RE INTERESTED IN IT AS A HISTORICAL PIECE!

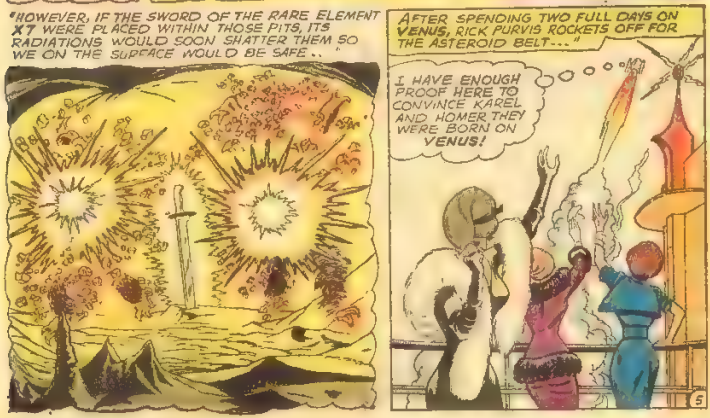
SETTING UP THE SWORD, THEY FIRE COLORED RAYS TO FORM AN IMPREG-NABLE PLASTI-LOCK AROUND IT...
THERE! WHEN THE PLASTI-MIST HARDENS IT WILL SHATTER ONLY TO THREE SPECIAL TYPES OF RAY BLASTS!
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES THAT KNOW THAT--SO THE SWORD IS SAFE!

FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT VENUS IS HIS HOME PLANET, RICK PURVIS LANDS AT CLOUD CITY, WHERE...
MARALEE! LLALLA! KATHARONE! ALL MY OLD GIRL FRIENDS--HERE TO WELCOME ME HOME! WELL, THIS IS A SURPRISE!
WELCOME HOME
4


EVEN AS THE ATMOSPHERE POLES CRACKLE WITH THE LIGHTNINGS THAT MAKE THE VENUSIAN AIR BREATHABLE FOR ITS COLONISTS FROM EARTH, RICK GATHERS IN HIS MANY SWEETHEARTS...
MAY I INTERRUPT, MR. PURVIS-- DID YOU FIND THE SWORD OF STAR-HEDRON? WHERE IS IT?
MUTE ADMIRATION GLISTENS IN THE EYES OF HIS GIRL FRIENDS AS RICK REPLIES TO THE VENUSIAN OFFICIAL...
OF COURSE WE FOUND IT! THERE'S A LITTLE DIFFICULTY, THOUGH! MY FELLOW STAR ROVERS ARE UNDER THE DELUSION ONE OF THEM IS FROM MARS AND THE OTHER FROM JUPITER!

A TRIUMPHAL PARADE TAKES THE STAR ROVER THROUGH VENUS-PORT AMID A SHOWER OF SPACE-TAPE...
WE'LL PREPARE A DOSSIER PROVING IRREFUTABLY THAT KAREL SORENSEN AND HOMER GLINT WERE BORN ON VENUS! DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING!
YOU SEE MR PURVIS--IT'S MOST IMPORTANT THAT VENUS GETS THE SWORD OF STARHEDRON! IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE HAVE OF DESTROYING THE KARALATHS--THOSE TERRIBLE CREATURES OF ALIEN LIFE-FORM WHO INHABIT THE SUB-VENUSIAN PITS!


"DWELLING IN THE LABYRINTHINE TUNNELS BELOW THE SURFACE, THE KARALATHS HAVE BECOME VERY DARING LATELY, MAKING MANY RAIDS ON OUR COLONIAL CITIES TO STEAL OUR FOOD AND WATER..."
OUR STRONGEST RAY RIFLES CAN'T HARM THEM!


"HOWEVER, IF THE SWORD OF THE RARE ELEMENT X7 WERE PLACED WITHIN THOSE PITS, ITS RADIATIONS WOULD SOON SHATTER THEM SO WE ON THE SURFACE WOULD BE SAFE..."
AFTER SPENDING TWO FULL DAYS ON VENUS, RICK PURVIS ROCKETS OFF FOR THE ASTEROID BELT..."
I HAVE ENOUGH PROOF HERE TO CONVINCE KAREL AND HOMER THEY WERE BORN ON VENUS!
5

KAREL SORENSEN, MEANWHILE, HAS LANDED ON MARS WHERE SHE IS GREETED BY HER SISTER AND THE OFFICIALS OF MARSOPOLIS...

KAREL, HONEY! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!

IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU TOO, BETTI!

AFTER SHE HAS TOLD HER STORY TO THE AUTHORITIES, KAREL SORENSEN IS TAKEN ON A TRIUMPHAL TOUR OF THE CITY...

WE'LL SUPPLY YOU WITH PROOF THAT YOUR STAR COMPANIONS, LIKE YOURSELF, WERE BORN ON MARS! LOOK OVER YONDER IF YOU WANT PROOF!

THERE ARE RICK PURVIS'S GIRL FRIENDS--AND HOMER GLINT'S WIFE AND CHILDREN! ALL OF THEM ARE GRIEVING--BUT NO MORE THAN WILL MARS ITSELF IF WE DON'T GET THE SWORD OF STARHEDRON!

"AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE HAD TO MANUFACTURE AN ARTIFICIAL ATMOSPHERE ON THE OXYGEN-POOR PLANET OF MARS! WE HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO MAKE RAIN, HOWEVER, AND UNLESS WE CAN CREATE RAIN, OUR CROPS WON'T GROW AND OUR WATER WILL SOON VANISH..."

WE TRY TO SEED THOSE CLOUDS--BUT NO RAIN FALLS!

WE NEED RAIN--OR WE'LL ALL PERISH!

"THEN OUR SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED THAT IF WE SEEDED OUR CLOUDS WITH X--THE RARE ELEMENT OF WHICH THE SWORD IS MADE--IT WOULD CAUSE RAIN TO FALL AND CONTINUE FALLING AS IT DOES ON EARTH..."

EVEN AS KAREL IS SPENDING HIS TIME ON MARS, HOMER GLINT'S ARRIVING ON JUPITER, SETTLING DOWN THROUGH ITS METHANE-AMMONIA ATMOSPHERE TOWARD ITS DOOMED CITY.

ALMOST TIME TO LAND! I'D BETTER SET MY SUIT GRAVITY-CONTROLS FOR MY HOME PLANET SO I CAN MOVE ABOUT COMFORTABLY!

BUT AS HE STEPS OUT TO MEET THE JOVIAN OFFICIALS IN THEIR DOMED METROPOLIS, HE STUMBLES

OOOOPS! I DIDN'T QUITE SET MY CONTROLS ON JUPITER! BETTER RESET THEM BEFORE I REALLY TAKE A HEADER!

REUNITED WITH HIS FAMILY, HOMER IS SOON TELLING HIS TALE OF DISCOVERY--AND DISAGREEMENT...

WE'LL SUPPLY A DOSSIER ON KAREL AND RICK, SHOWING THEY ARE TRULY JOVIANS!

WE NEED THE SWORD OF STARHEDRON ON JUPITER, HOMER GLINT--VERY DESPERATELY!

FOR UNCOUNTED CENTURIES THE 'RED SPOT' OF JUPITER HAS BEEN POISONING ITS ATMOSPHERE! AN ELLIPTICAL MASS 22 THOUSAND MILES LONG AND 7 THOUSAND MILES WIDE IT HAS LOST SOME OF ITS COLOR--BUT NOT ITS DEADLY RADIOACTIVITY! COMPOSED OF TERRIBLE GASES IT THREATENS OUR VERY LIVES

"THE 'RED BLOTCH' IS NOW GIVING OFF RAYS THAT PENETRATE OUR GLASS DOMES, THUS POISONING THE MAN-MADE AIR WE BREATHE..."

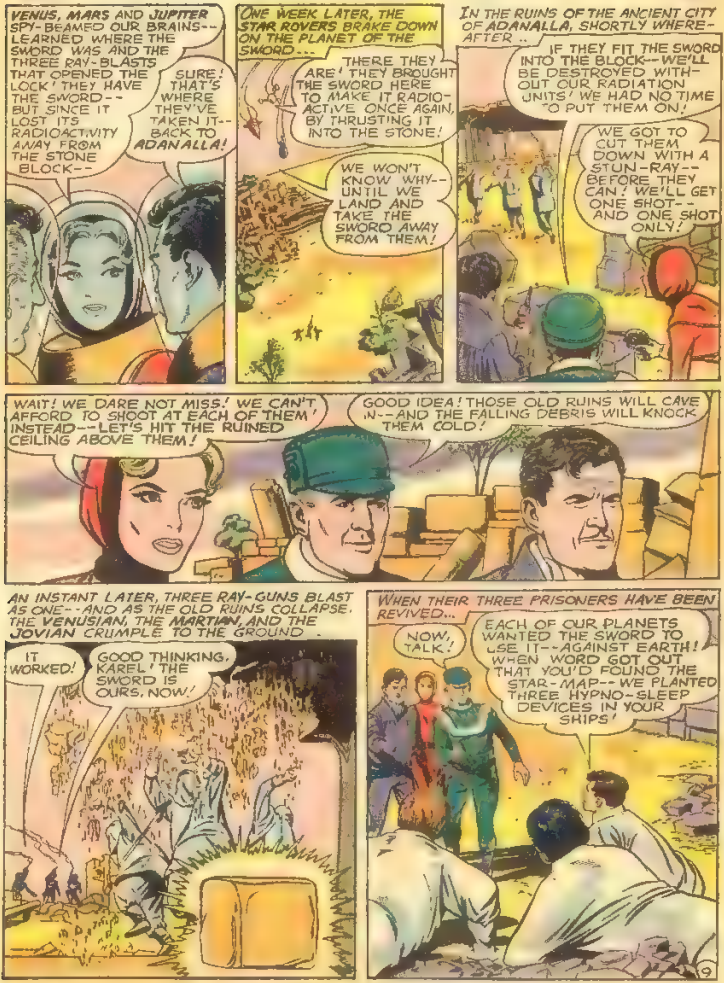
:COUGH!: 'COUGH! BETTER STEP UP THE AIR PUMPS! IT'S GETTING HARDER TO BREATHE!

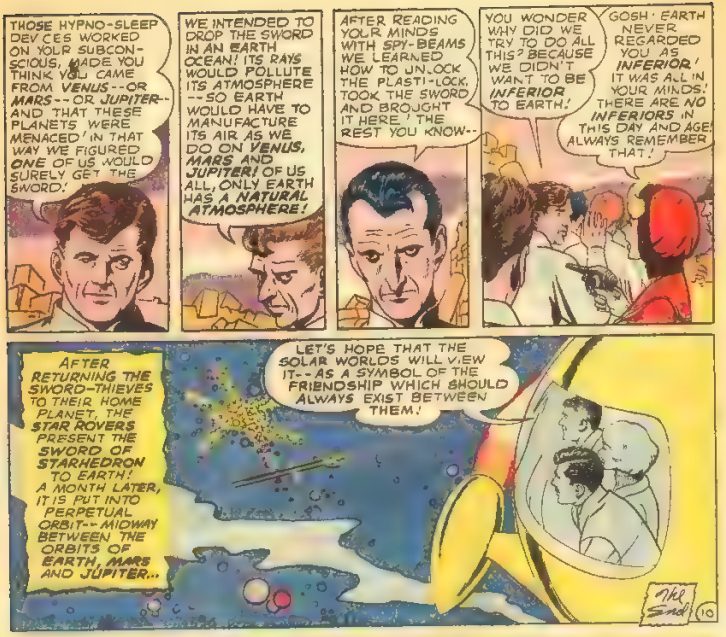
:COUGH: I'LL SOUND THE ALARM!

"QUITE RECENTLY WE DISCOVERED THAT IF THE X7 MATERIAL OF THE SWORD OF STARHEDRON WERE SUSPENDED IN THE 'BLOTCH', IT WOULD ABSORB THE DEADLY RAYS AND SAVE ALL LIFE ON THE PLANET."

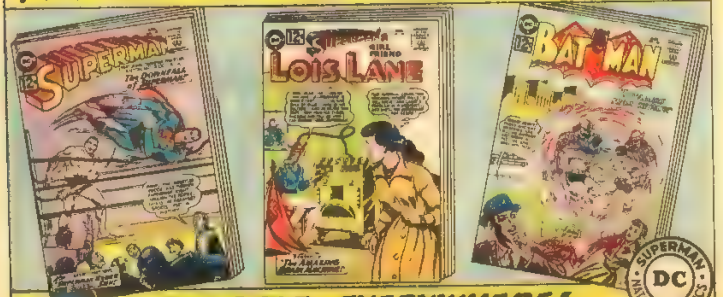
THE DANGER HAS ALWAYS EXISTED! WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND IT!

AND SO, EQUIPPED WITH A COMPLETE FILE ON KAREL AND RICK, HOMER GLINT BLASTS OFF FOR AND LANDS ON THE ASTEROID WHERE..
I HAVE ABSOLUTE PROOF THAT YOU AND HOMER ARE VENUSIANS, KAREL--BUT THE STRANGE PART IS, I DON'T BELIEVE A SINGLE WORD OF IT!
YOU, TOO? THAT'S THE WAY I FEEL!
COUNT ME IN ON THAT! I THINK WE'VE BEEN BRAINWASHED!
EVER SINCE A CUTE GIRL WITH GREEN EYES JILTED ME YEARS AGO, I'VE NEVER DATED ANY OTHERS! GIRLS WITH GREEN EYES ARE WONDERFUL--BUT NOT FOR ME! SO WHEN THE VENUSIANS HAD GIRLS TO MEET ME WHO RESEMBLED MY GIRLS FRIENDS--BUT WITH GREEN EYES--I BECAME SUSPICIOUS!
MY SISTER NEVER CALLS ME KAREL! MY REAL NAME IS MARY SMITH! SO WHEN MY 'SISTER' ON MARS CALLED ME KAREL INSTEAD OF MARY--I BECAME LEERY! KAREL SORENSEN IS ONLY A NAME I TOOK WHEN I BECAME A BEAUTY QUEEN!
MY REFLEX ACTION IN SETTING MY DIAL CONTROLS--NOT FOR JUPITER BUT FOR EARTH WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO LAND ON MY 'HOME' PLANET STRUCK ME AS ODD! SUBCONSCIOUSLY HAVING SET THEM FOR EARTH, IT MADE ME WONDER IF EARTH MIGHT NOT BE OUR TRUE HOME PLANET!
LANGUAGE IS NO HELP IN SETTLING THE 'ISSUE'! WE ALL SPEAK 'UNIVERSO'! WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS, WHY SHOULD WE ALL MAKE A MISTAKE LIKE THAT?
OBVIOUSLY, VENUS, MARS AND JUPITER WANT THE SWORD! HMM--MAYBE WE'D BETTER GET IT--SO THEY CAN'T!
BUT WHEN THE TRIO OF ADVENTURERS BLASTS OPEN THE SOLIDIFIED PLASTI-LOCK...
THE SWORD IS--GONE! BUT WHO COULD HAVE TAKEN IT? AND HOW DID THEY OPEN THE PLASTI-LOCK?
I'M GETTING A ROUGH IDEA, BOYS! LISTEN...


VENUS, MARS AND JUPITER SPY-BEAMED OUR BRAINS--LEARNED WHERE THE SWORD WAS AND THE THREE RAY-BLASTS THAT OPENED THE LOCK! THEY HAVE THE SWORD--BUT SINCE IT LOST ITS RADIOACTIVITY AWAY FROM THE STONE BLOCK--
SURE! THAT'S WHERE THEY'VE TAKEN IT--BACK TO ADANALLA!
ONE WEEK LATER, THE STAR ROVERS BRAKE DOWN ON THE PLANET OF THE SWORD---
THERE THEY ARE! THEY BROUGHT THE SWORD HERE TO MAKE IT RADIO-ACTIVE ONCE AGAIN, BY THRUSTING IT INTO THE STONE!
WE WON'T KNOW WHY--UNTIL WE LAND AND TAKE THE SWORD AWAY FROM THEM!
IN THE RUINS OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF ADANALLA, SHORTLY WHERE-AFTER...
IF THEY FIT THE SWORD INTO THE BLOCK--WE'LL BE DESTROYED WITH-OUT OUR RADIATION UNITS! WE HAD NO TIME TO PUT THEM ON!
WE GOT TO CUT THEM DOWN WITH A STUN-RAY--BEFORE THEY CAN! WE'LL GET ONE SHOT--AND ONE SHOT ONLY!
WAIT! WE DARE NOT MISS! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SHOOT AT EACH OF THEM! INSTEAD--LET'S HIT THE RUINED CEILING ABOVE THEM!
GOOD IDEA! THOSE OLD RUINS WILL CAVE IN--AND THE FALLING DEBRIS WILL KNOCK THEM COLD!
AN INSTANT LATER, THREE RAY-GUNS BLAST AS ONE--AND AS THE OLD RUINS COLLAPSE, THE VENUSIAN, THE MARTIAN, AND THE JOVIAN CRUMPLE TO THE GROUND.
IT WORKED!
GOOD THINKING, KAREL! THE SWORD IS OURS, NOW!
WHEN THEIR THREE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN REVIVED...
NOW, TALK!
EACH OF OUR PLANETS WANTED THE SWORD TO USE IT--AGAINST EARTH! WHEN WORD GOT OUT THAT YOU'D FOUND THE STAR-MAP--WE PLANTED THREE HYPNO-SLEEP DEVICES IN YOUR SHIPS!


THOSE HYPNO-SLEEP DEVICES WORKED ON YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS, MADE YOU THINK YOU CAME FROM VENUS--OR MARS--OR JUPITER--AND THAT THESE PLANETS WERE MENACED! IN THAT WAY WE FIGURED ONE OF US WOULD SURELY GET THE SWORD!
WE INTENDED TO DROP THE SWORD IN AN EARTH OCEAN! ITS RAYS WOULD POLLUTE ITS ATMOSPHERE --SO EARTH WOULD HAVE TO MANUFACTURE ITS AIR AS WE DO ON VENUS, MARS AND JUPITER! OF US ALL, ONLY EARTH HAS A NATURAL ATMOSPHERE!
AFTER READING YOUR MINDS WITH SPY-BEAMS WE LEARNED HOW TO UNLOCK THE PLASTI-LOCK, TOOK THE SWORD AND BROUGHT IT HERE! THE REST YOU KNOW--
YOU WONDER WHY DID WE TRY TO DO ALL THIS? BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT TO BE INFERIOR TO EARTH!
GOSH! EARTH NEVER REGARDED YOU AS INFERIOR! IT WAS ALL IN YOUR MINDS! THERE ARE NO INFERIORS IN THIS DAY AND AGE! ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT!
AFTER RETURNING THE SWORD--THIEVES TO THEIR HOME PLANET, THE STAR ROVERS PRESENT THE SWORD OF STARHEDRON TO EARTH! A MONTH LATER, IT IS PUT INTO PERPETUAL ORBIT--MIDWAY BETWEEN THE ORBITS OF EARTH, MARS AND JUPITER...
LET'S HOPE THAT THE SOLAR WORLDS WILL VIEW IT--AS A SYMBOL OF THE FRIENDSHIP WHICH SHOULD ALWAYS EXIST BETWEEN THEM!
THE END
10

YOU MUST NOT MISS THESE GREAT ISSUES!



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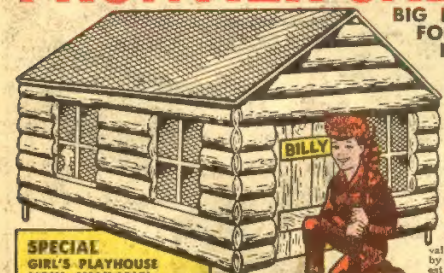

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FREE Large 2"x8" Name Plate fits on door. House can be personalized with child's name.

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DEPT. FC-30
BOX 269, MIDTOWN
P. O. STATION N.Y.18, N.Y.

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Please send me Items checked:
☐ Frontier Cabin @ $1.00 plus 25c postage and handling
☐ Girl's Playhouse @ $1.00 plus 25c postage and handling
☐ Frontier Cabin or Giant Playhouse or Any Combination — 5 for only $4.00 plus $1.00 postage and handling

Sorry, No C.O.D.'s

Payment ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ M.O.

Name.....

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City..... Zone..... State.....

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PRIZES FOR YOU

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IT'S EASY TO SELL OUR BEAUTIFUL CARDS FOR ONLY $1.25 PER BOX

DAISY MODEL 1894 RIFLE Sell Only 24 Boxes

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MARLIN SHOTGUN Sell Only 36 Boxes

DENIGHT SPECIAL AURORA RACER Sell Only 12 Boxes

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DELUXE TABLE RADIO Sell Only 24 Boxes

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MICROSCOPE SET Sell Only 12 Boxes

P-40 FLYING TIGER Sell Only 12 Boxes

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ELECTRIC FOOTBALL GAME Sell Only 12 Boxes

YUCCA PACK Sell Only 12 Boxes

AIRACOBRA ROCKET-FIRING AIRPLANE Sell Only 12 Boxes

MOUNTAINEER TENT Sell Only 24 Boxes

AURORA MODEL MOTORING SET Sell Only 24 Boxes

JOIN THE ORIGINAL J.S.C.A. Get Your Prizes this Fast Easy Way!

It's easy to earn these valuable prizes when you become a member of Junior Sales Club. Cards are sent to you on credit. YOU DO NOT PAY IN ADVANCE! Selling these lovely All Occasion Cards or sensational new Christmas Cards is amazingly easy. You sell each box of 21 beautiful cards for the low price of only $1.25. All your friends, relatives and neighbors will be delighted with such fine cards at such a reasonable price. Many members have earned a prize in only a few hours. IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY KEEP AS YOUR PRIZE, 50c FOR EACH BOX YOU SELL. The first thing to do is pick out the prize you want. Then simply fill out the coupon with your name and address and mail it in. We will immediately send you 12 boxes of cards. (If prize requires more than 12 boxes, start off with 12 boxes.) We send your cards on credit because we trust you. You have 30 days to sell your cards. All we ask is that you return prepaid by Parcel Post any boxes you cannot sell within 30 days, keeping 50c for each box you do sell. That's all there is to it! The J.S.C.A. Club Plan is quick and easy! MAIL YOUR COUPON NOW!

You Can Get This **OFFICIAL J.S.C.A. BADGE**

Junior Sales Club of America SPRINGFIELD 1, MASS.

MAIL THIS COUPON NOW!

JUNIOR SALES CLUB OF AMERICA
SPRINGFIELD 1, MASS. DEPT. NC-6

Enroll me as a member of the J.S.C.A. and send me AT ONCE FREE Membership Card, FREE Prize Catalog, complete details on how to get valuable prizes plus a supply of 12 boxes to sell as checked below:

☐ ALL OCCASION CARDS ☐ CHRISTMAS CARDS

You must indicate whether you want Christmas or All Occasion Cards. We CANNOT send both.

NAME _____
Print Clearly

ADDRESS _____

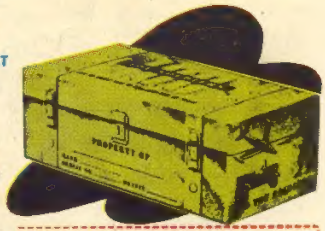
CITY _____ ZONE ____ STATE _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE _____

100 TOY SOLDIERS, MADE OF DURABLE PLASTIC, EACH ON ITS OWN BASE, MEASURING UP TO 4½"!

★ FUN TO SHOW
★ FUN TO TRADE
★ FUN TO COLLECT

PACKED in this FOOTLOCKER
TOY STORAGE BOX



EACH FOOTLOCKER CONTAINS:

- 4 Tanks
- 4 Jeeps
- 4 Battleships
- 4 Cruisers
- 4 Sailors
- 4 Riflemen
- 8 Machinegunners
- 8 Sharpshooters
- 4 Infantrymen
- 8 Officers
- 8 Waves
- 8 Wacs
- 4 Bombers
- 4 Trucks
- 8 Jet Planes
- 8 Cannon
- 4 Bazookamen
- 4 Marksmen

100 TOY SOLDIERS, Dept. TNC9
Carle Place, L.I., N.Y.

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Rush the TOY SOLDIERS TO ME!

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....

Canada and foreign orders send $1.50 postal money order.